

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 SS-15

PER-01 AID-05 ST-01 OC-06 CCO-00 USIA-06 /072 W

----- 061586

R 191125Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 275

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL ASMARA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR

SUBJ: ETHIOPIAN AIR LINES (EAL) SAFETY

REF: ADDIS ABABA 7990 AND PREVIOUS

1. BOEING REGIONAL DIRECTOR (MIDDLE EAST) FOR COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT, R. KELVIN HOWARD, AND REGIONAL DIRECTOR (MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA), FOR CUSTOMER SUPPORT, CLIFTON A. SMITH, VISITED ADDIS ABABA JULY 12 AND 13 FOR GENERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH EAL. DURING VISIT THEY WALKED THROUGH REPAIR STATION WHICH, ACCORDING TO HOWARD AND SMITH, IS SUPERIOR TO ANY REPAIR STATION IN AFRICA EXCEPT FOR SOUTH AFRICA AND IN THE MIDDLE EAST EXCEPT FOR KUWAIT. EAL MANAGEMENT CONFIRMED TO SMITH AND HOWARD THAT THEY DESIRED A FLIGHT CREW AUDIT TEAM FROM BOEING WHICH THEY HAD REQUESTED APPROXIMATELY SIX MONTHS AGO. THIS TEAM IS COMPOSED OF A QUALIFIED PILOT AND A QUALIFIED FLIGHT ENGINEER AND WILL AUDIT ALL EAL FLIGHT CREWS IN NORMALLY SCHEDULED OPERATIONS. THE AUDIT WILL TAKE ABOUT 30 DAYS AND IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN THE FIRST PART OF AUGUST. AFTER THE TEAM HAS COMPLETED ITS REPORT, HOWARD WILL PROVIDE THE EMBASSY WITH A COPY WHICH

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HE WILL DELIVER TO THE EMBASSY IN ATHENS FOR FORWARDING TO US.

IN ADDITION TO THIS AUDIT, EAL MANAGEMENT ALSO REQUESTED A REPAIR STATION AUDIT, ANOTHER SERVICE PROVIDED BY BOEING TO ITS CUSTOMERS. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHEN THE REPAIR STATION AUDIT WILL TAKE PLACE AS SMITH, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ARRANGMENTS, WILL HAVE TO SCHEDULE A TEAM TAKING INTO ACCOUNT OTHER COMMITMENTS BOEING HAS MADE FOR THIS SERVICE. BOTH SMITH AND HOWARD PLACED A FAVORABLE INTERPRETATION ON EAL'S EAGERNESS TO HAVE THESE AUDITS. THEY BELIEVE EAL STANDARDS WITH RESPECT TO SAFETY HAVE NOT DETERIORATED SIGNIFICANTLY AND STILL GENERALL EXCEED AIRLINES IN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST.

2. COMMENT: EMBASSY NOW HAS CONSIDERABLE CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE (SEE PREVIOUS REPORTING) THAT EAL SAFETY STANDARDS ARE SATISFACTORY. NEVERTHELESS, EMBASSY BELIEVES IT BEST TO AWAIT BOEING FLIGHT CREW AUDIT BEFORE MAKING FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS ON USE OF EAL BY OFFICIAL PERSONNEL. CONSEQUENTLY, EMBASSY WILL ADVISE DEPT OF ITS VIEWS AS SOON AS WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO REVIEW BOEING AUDIT REPORT UNLESS DEPT OTHERWISE INSTRUCTS.
TIENKEN

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Message Attributes

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